

strive to do their personal best each day. Her classroom is a safe haven, where learning is natural and anything is attainable.

I would like to congratulate Ms. Kathleen McGrath on her election into the National Teachers Hall of Fame, and for continuing to provide the children of Marion County with a fun and inspiring learning environment.

INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SUPPORT OF THE VICTIMS OF TORTURE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I find myself dealing with the issue of torture many times over during the course of any given year—torture committed by Russian forces in Chechnya, systematic police abuse of Roma in Greece, prisoners tortured to death in Uzbekistan, to give just a few recent examples. Unfortunately, torture remains the weapon of choice by many oppressive regimes, systematically used to silence political opposition, punish religious minorities, or target those who are ethnically or racially different from those in power.

But on the occasion of the United Nations' Day in Support of the Victims of Torture, I'd like to reflect on the steps that can be taken to help prevent torture from occurring in the first place.

Torture is prohibited by a multitude of international instruments, including documents of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Moreover, it is absolute and nonderogable under any circumstances, even wartime. The challenge, then, is to translate this commitment into practice.

Amnesty International has issued a number of recommendations to help end torture. They are remarkably straightforward and easy to grasp: officials at the highest level should condemn torture; governments should ensure access to prisoners; secret detentions should be prohibited; and confessions obtained through torture should be excluded from evidence in the courtroom. I believe the implementation of these fundamental principles would have a significant impact in reducing torture. At the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Annual Session two years ago, I introduced a resolution, passed by the Assembly, that built on these basic concepts.

While we work to eradicate torture, we must not forget those who have already become its victims. Along with Representative TOM LANTOS, I have introduced H.R. 1813, legislation to re-authorize the Torture Victims Relief Act and the list of cosponsors is growing. The Senate companion bill, S. 854 was introduced by Senator COLEMAN. This reauthorization will continue funding for centers here in the United States that help provide treatment for the estimated half million survivors, most of whom came to this country as refugees. It will also provide funds, distributed through the Agency for International Development or the U.N. Voluntary Fund for the Victims of Torture, for treatment centers abroad. While life for torture survivors can never be the same, treatment can provide victims the hope of becoming stable and productive members of their commu-

nities. I urge my colleagues in the House to join in supporting this measure as a tangible support of the victims of torture.

**HONORING DR. JAN VAN
WAGTENDONK**

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Jan van Wagtendonk, who recently received the 2002 Excellence in Wilderness Stewardship Research Award. Van Wagtendonk was presented the award on June 12, 2003 at the Forest Service's 2002 National Wilderness Awards ceremony in Arlington, VA.

Dr. Wagtendonk has been involved in wilderness science for over 30 years. Van Wagtendonk grew up in Indiana where he studied forestry at Purdue University. During the summer, he worked as a smokejumper for the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. This led him to Oregon State University where he received his B.S. in Forest Management. He then served four and a half years in the U.S. Army as an officer in the 101st Airborne Division where he was also an advisor to the Vietnamese army. He entered graduate school at University of California, Berkeley where he received his M.S. in Range Management and his Ph.D. in Wildland Resource Science with a specialty in fire ecology. From 1972 through 1993, van Wagtendonk was a research scientist with the National Park Service at Yosemite National Park. Since then he has been a research scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey. In 2001, van Wagtendonk was chosen to be an invited speaker at the 7th World Wilderness Congress held in South Africa.

Through his extensive research, interagency wilderness programs in the Sierra Nevada have improved greatly. His contributions have not only helped in Yosemite, but across the country, with his work on fuels dynamics, fire prescriptions, remote sensing and the application of geographic information systems to fire management. The techniques developed through van Wagtendonk's work have been used in the wildernesses of national forests in Oregon, North Carolina and California. Dr. David Parsons nominated van Wagtendonk for this because "his dedication to providing sound science to the challenging dilemmas facing wilderness managers in Yosemite and across the country is unparalleled."

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Jan van Wagtendonk for his significant and steadfast efforts to preserve and manage the wilderness of the United States.

SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ADVOCATES

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show my support for the efforts of

public transportation advocates around the country.

Today, the National Alliance of Public Transportation Advocates (NAPTA) is distributing a letter to the Hill, which asks Congress to double the investment in public transportation to \$14 billion by FY2009 when it reauthorizes the federal surface transportation program.

Providing increased, guaranteed transit funding is critical to improving the livability of our communities. In Portland, we have been proud to be leaders in understanding the connection between land use and transportation. Our light rail system has not only provided additional choices to our residents, it has also helped with environmental problems.

Portland's transit system, Tri-Met, has the 13th largest ridership in the nation, despite being only the 29th largest transit district. Rider totals increased 65 percent the last decade. This growth is a reflection of the increased transit investment provided by the federal, state and local levels. In my community, transit truly is making a difference in the quality of life for our citizens.

NAPTA also points to the strong success of such existing programs as the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), Enhancements, and Transportation and Community and System Pilot Preservation Program (TCSP).

Communities nationwide are experiencing the flexibility and freedom of having more public transportation choices. For every federal dollar invested in public transportation as many as \$6 are returned in congestion reduction, safety benefits and access to economic opportunity. At the same time, 47,500 jobs are created for each \$1 billion invested. Increasing guaranteed federal funding in public transportation can bring these benefits to people across the country.

TRIBUTE TO THE EMPLOYEES OF WYETH-PHARMACEUTICALS IN RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, the breakthroughs in medicine now occurring on a daily basis were unimaginable 40 years ago when Medicare was established. Seniors lead better lives due to these research breakthroughs and new prescription drugs; however, these medical breakthroughs are meaningless if seniors cannot access these lifesaving medications prescribed by their doctor.

Last year a constituent of mine from Bumpass, Virginia wrote me because she could not afford her mother's private assisted living care. She was paying over \$550 a month for her mother's prescription drugs, and those huge costs severely limited the care available for her mother. I can only imagine how heartbreaking a decision this must have been for a daughter and her mother—choosing medicine over assisted living care.

That is why I want to recognize the 1,465 Richmond-based employees of Wyeth-Pharmaceuticals, a world-class pharmaceutical research company. These employees participate in charitable company program that offers patients lifesaving medications, free of charge.

The Wyeth Patient Assistant Program has been a very successful way for seniors in Richmond and the Nation to get lifesaving medicines free of charge. Wyeth employees are good community partners for Richmond and a group of people that we need to recognize for their kindness and compassion.

But we as Americans can and must do more to help our seniors afford prescription drugs.

Providing voluntary prescription drug coverage to Medicare beneficiaries will ensure that America's seniors will be able to enjoy their golden years while we as their children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy their wisdom and good health. Both a noble and worthy cause.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE BOB STUMP

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleagues as we pay tribute to our friend, Bob Stump of Arizona. I was deeply saddened to learn of his passing last weekend. I join my colleagues in extending our deepest sympathy to Bob's wife, Nancy, his children, and his entire family.

Bob Stump was my first friend in Congress. Almost 26 years ago, two newly-elected Members of Congress sat down next to each other at an organizational caucus for the 95th Congress, and formed a friendship that has endured and grown through the years. You have to understand that when we met, Bob Stump and I thought we were pretty important. After all, we had both served in the State Legislatures of Arizona and Missouri—as Senators. But we both adjusted and came to love the House of Representatives.

It should be no surprise that I liked Bob from the first time I met him. I could tell immediately that he was a person of character and integrity. He was a true son of the old Southwest:

Strong, yet gentle.
Tough, yet compassionate.
Fiercely independent, yet unfailingly loyal.

He was born in Phoenix in 1927, just 15 years after Arizona joined the Union as the 48th State. He was only 16 when he demonstrated the love of country and the patriotism that would characterize his life in public service. He left high school to join the Navy in 1943, and before his 20th birthday, he had served in combat in World War II. It was no doubt during this time that Bob acquired his life-long respect for the men and women who serve our Nation in uniform. This respect became a commitment, and the commitment became the hallmark of Bob's service here in Congress. As Chairman of both the Armed Services Committee and the Veterans Committee, he worked tirelessly on behalf of our men and women in uniform and our veterans.

No one has done more to ensure that our military and their families have decent pay and benefits, the best equipment and training, and quality housing and facilities. No one has done more to ensure that our Nation honors its commitments to its veterans.

Only last October, Bob's portrait was unveiled at the Armed Services Committee and

placed up on the wall where it belongs—among the other great leaders who have chaired the Committee through the years. I feel blessed that I had the opportunity to work closely with Bob during the past two years in my role as Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Committee. As Chairman, he was respectful of others, fair, and honorable. Knowing him as I do, I would have expected no less. On most issues which Congress has faced over these many years, we agreed. On those rare occasions where we did not agree, our disagreement never got in the way of our friendship, and for that I am grateful.

KELLY SHINN'S ESSAY

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to read the essay of Kelly Shinn, a member of the Valley Center Teenage Republican Club.

Being a part of the Teenage Republican club and working for the Republican Party means I have accepted the republican values. By accepting these values I have so far been affected by the party's efforts to keep public schools excellent and accountable. These values will also affect me in the future.

The value of ensuring affordable and accessible health care for children, families, and seniors has already affected my life. Without affordable health care I would not have been able to receive the medical assistance I needed to treat my Irritable Bowel Syndrome and get rid of a stomach parasite. These values will also affect my future and the future of my family. When I start a family of my own I will need affordable health care to keep my husband and children healthy and safe.

Also the value to ensure excellent and accountable public schools for children has already affected and will continue to affect me later in life. I have always attended public schools and because of the Republican Party's fight to keep the public school districts accountable, I have received a wonderful education. My education has given me the confidence I need to continue learning after high school. Keeping schools accountable and excellent will also affect my children. I want to give my children the same opportunity to receive a solid education and the only way to do this is to support the Republican Party.

All of the values that are held by the Republican Party will help secure a government that exists to protect the freedom of each individual. And this means that America will continue to be the home of the brave.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHRISTOPHER BALOGH FOR BEING HONORED WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD GOLD MEDAL

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christopher Balogh of Jupiter, FL, for receiving the Congressional Award Gold Medal. It is my pleasure to congratulate this

fine young resident of the 22nd Congressional District of Florida who has been incredibly dedicated to the betterment of not only his community but himself.

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Award Gold Medal requires more than 3 years to complete a minimum of 800 hours of community service, 200 hours in both personal development and physical fitness, in addition to a total of four nights of expedition/exploration. These are cumulative hours as Christopher has previously earned the Bronze and Silver Medals. I applaud his hard work and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again congratulate Christopher Balogh of my district who is being presented with the Congressional Award Gold Medal today. The outstanding work done by this dedicated young man has been truly influential in his community, and I congratulate him as he is recognized among the Nation's most outstanding young people.

RECOGNIZING THE COMMITTEE FOR CITIZEN AWARENESS

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, at a time when strained Federal, State, and local budgets are affecting our country's funding for the education of our people, some individuals and organizations in our private sector are doing something about it. They have combined efforts with the Committee for Citizen Awareness (CCA) to provide all the secondary schools and many others in their area with free educational videotapes. These videotapes explain civic issues about our country and how our government works.

The CCA is a nearly two-decade-old not-for-profit organization that produces and distributes award-winning educational videotapes that focus on civic issues. These videotapes feature appearances by people such as Secretary of State Colin Powell, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, many Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Senators, and other pertinent individuals.

The subjects covered in these videotapes are particularly important for a number of reasons. For example, although America is the world's greatest democracy, our people vote at a rate lower than any other country. Surveys have shown that one of the major reasons for not using the right to vote is a general lack of understanding of our government and the citizen's role in it. One of the many civic goals of the CCA and these civic-minded individuals and organizations is to correct this problem with the gift of these educational videotapes.

The videotapes are given free to all the public and private high schools, community and junior colleges, community access television stations, and to many libraries and chambers of commerce. Our country and our democracy are better because of the efforts of the CCA and because of its countless dedicated sponsors.